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N. K. BENSON

Tarsier

IF ever a gremlin appears in the flesh it will probably look like this popeyed, grinning tarsier from the Philippine island of Mindanao. Here pictured approximately life-size, this miniature member of the monkey family hunts beetles and lizards after dark using owl's eyes to see where it's going.

Though the tarsier looks like a ludicrous toy, half doll, half Teddy bear, it can snap its sharp little teeth. Left alone in the wilds, it greets nightfall by hopping from tree to tree, catching itself with soft, padded hands. Munching a tasty beetle, it closes its eyes with the joy of a gourmet.

Writing in the September, 1948, *National Geographic Magazine,* zoo supplier Charles H. Wharton recalls walking into his makeshift jungle "cage" for captured tarsiers and finding 20 pairs of big brown banjo-eyes fixed upon him. An unnerving sight for most. For a naturalist, a thrill.

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